

North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – January 22, 2016



Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2016

John Long – Fish Program

Purpose

- Brief FWC on North of Falcon Policy
 - Expires 12/31/2016

North of Falcon Policy

Guidance to the Department for annual salmon fisheries:

- Conservation Principles
- Harvest Opportunity
- In-season Management
- Monitoring, Sampling and Enforcement
- Gear Conflicts
- Incidental Mortalities
- Communications

North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will insure that management decisions are consistent with:

- Statutory Authority
- U.S. v. Washington
- U.S. v. Oregon
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- PFMIC's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- State/Tribal Agreements
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

North of Falcon Policy

Implement consistent with the 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

- Science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable
- Meet or exceed ESA recovery and conservation goals

Harvest Management

General & Statewide Fishing Opportunities ...

... will be provided when they can be directed at
healthy wild and hatchery stocks

... will utilize selective fishing methods and gears to the fullest extent possible
to

maximize fishing opportunity

and to

minimizing impacts on depressed stocks

... will not be

exclusively reserved for either sport or
commercial users

Harvest Management

General & Statewide

Meaningful recreational fishing opportunities

will be ...

distributed equitably across fishing areas

and

reflect the diverse interests of fishers, including retention and catch-and-release fisheries

Harvest Management

General & Statewide

... non-treaty fishing access to unutilized portions of treaty harvest allocation through the implementation of ...

pre-season and in-season agreements

Harvest Management

Sockeye, Chum, and Pink Salmon
(except for Puget Sound origin sockeye...)

...in priority order,

- (1) provide the majority of harvest to the commercial fisheries
- (2) provide meaningful recreational opportunities

Harvest Management

Chinook and Coho Salmon – Puget Sound

...in priority order,

- (1) provide meaningful recreational opportunities distributed equitably across fishing areas ...
- (2) provide opportunities for commercial harvest

Harvest Management

Grays Harbor:

... consistent with the Commission's Grays Harbor Policy (C-3621)

Willapa Bay:

... consistent with the Commission's direction and policies (C-3622)

Pacific Ocean:

... consistent with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Framework Salmon Management Plan...

Harvest Management

Columbia River:

Harvest management regimes shall be developed with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Consistent with the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620)

In-season Management

... consistent with pre-season conservation and harvest management objectives and fishery intent developed through the North of Falcon process

Monitoring, Sampling, & Enforcement

... will be provided to account for species and population impacts of all fisheries

... Fishery participants will be required to comply...

Gear and Fishery Conflicts

- ... minimize gear and other fishery conflicts
- ... resolved by involving the appropriate sport and commercial representatives in a dispute resolution process managed by Department staff

Incidental Mortalities

- ... minimize mortalities on non-target species (e.g., rockfish, sea birds, etc.)
- ... include strategies to limit seabird mortalities consistent with the federal Migratory Bird Act

Communications

... make ongoing improvements for effective public involvement during the North of Falcon planning process

Include North of Falcon participants as observers during appropriate state/tribal discussions of fishery issues

Maintain timely records of discussions and decisions

Use a variety of communication tools

Delegation of Authority

... the Fish and Wildlife Commission delegated the authority to the Director to:

... make harvest agreements with Northwest treaty tribes and other governmental agencies

... adopt permanent and emergency regulations resulting from North of Falcon

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Questions ?